



eggs with dark spots are laid. Young can leave the nest within a day or two after hatching. The sora migrates in late summer and early fall and travels long distances at night.

### **Habitats**

natural lakes and prairie marshes

### **Iowa Status**

uncommon; native

### **Iowa Range**

summer: scattered throughout Iowa in suitable habitats; migrant: statewide

### **Bibliography**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

## **sora**

*Porzana carolina*

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Aves
Order:	Gruiformes
Family:	Rallidae

### **Features**

An adult sora is eight to 10 inches long. Both sexes are similar in appearance. This bird has a chunky, brownish-gray body with a black patch on its face and throat. It has a small, yellow bill and short wings.

### **Natural History**

The sora is a common migrant. It winters from the southern United States to northern South America. It lives in marshes, ponds, lakes, flooded fields, hayfields, and wet meadows. It eats large amounts of plants and also will eat beetles, crayfish, snails, and spiders. Its call in spring is a whiny "ker-wee" and in the fall is "keek." The sora is one of the most secretive marsh birds. When flushed, this bird will fly straight up, go only a short distance, and land in vegetation. Spring migrants arrive in mid- to late April. Eggs have been found in Iowa from May through August. Nests are constructed in cattails, sedges, and grasses. Plants are pulled over the top of the nest to keep the sun out and hide the nest. Four to 14 tan